

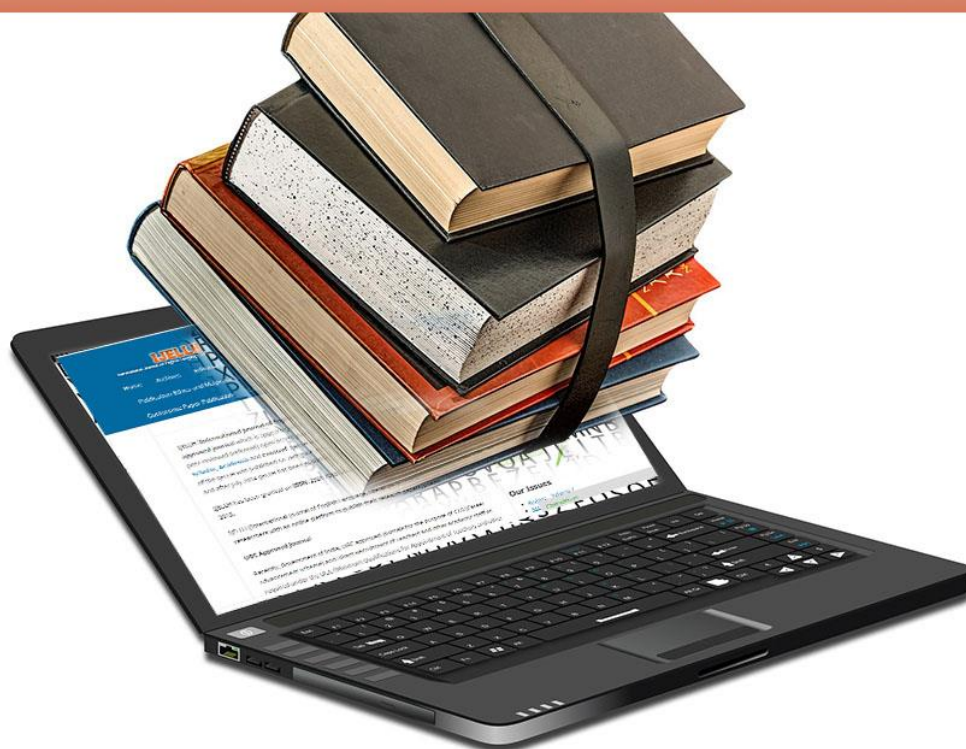
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A Review on Current Trends in ELT

Abstract

In this world of gizmos , the field of language is changing at a drastic rate. Traditional conceptions of education are giving way to more newer , innovative ways of thinking about how we learn , teach and acquire knowledge. Teaching of English using technological gadgets has become a vogue in many educational institutions. The usage of such technologies in the class room has entirely changed the facet of traditional system of education. The theories and methodologies are constantly evolving in the field of ELT . This paper analyses the current trends which are playing an instrumental role in English language teaching.

1. Introduction

A plethora of books have been published in English language presenting a manifold of voices which try to liberalize old and traditional methods of teaching English. This paper aims at improvising teaching methodology with new techniques in ELT , handling slow learners to enhance their communication skills in a very easy manner and implementing the

latest methodological trends in English language teaching to students who communicate in their respective vernacular languages.

2. Trend in vogue

Many career alternatives which were once regarded insignificant are now gaining momentum such as communication skills , soft skills , interpersonal skills , technical skills etc. There is in fact a huge demand among the graduates to learn such courses and due to such cut-throat competition new trends have been developed for the betterment of learning a language.

3. Indian context

It was the time when the British were ruling India , they implemented the methods similar to a native speaker and such methods proved to have been fructified with Indians in learning the English language. With the exodus of the British to their native country from India things have turned other way round . Language experts thrived hard to choose the best out of the innumerable existing methodologies. The existing huge curriculum and syllabi continues to pester students who speak regional dialect but love to excel in English.

4. Computer Assisted language learning

Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) was conceived in 1950 and was implemented in 1960. In this method the computer gives a stimulus to the learner by being not a mere tool but also a tutor.

5. Web based learning

There are thousands of English web based classes that offer trainings for a variety of basic language skills such as Learning , Speaking, Reading and Writing are made interactive in a variety of ways. Some of them are as follows.

6. E-mail

By creating an email students can get touch with the native speakers by sharing the information and also can get their assignments corrected by mailing them to the teachers. The teacher can provide feedback and suggestions for the betterment and send them back.

7. Blogs

Blogging becomes communicative and interactive when participants assume multiple roles in the writing process , as readers who respond to other writer's posts and as writers-readers who , returning to their own posts , react to criticisms of their own posts.(Pinkman 2005) . The readers in turn can comment on what they read , although blogs can be placed in secured environment.

8. Skype

It is an internet service that has audio functions where in we can make use of laptops with cameras. Using this medium, the students can communicate with their teachers and students who are far away. Likewise, they could very well communicate with the speakers of native language and get their pronunciation checked so as to improve their speaking.

9. Mobile phones

Learners can make use of the dictionary in the mobile phone and enhance their vocabulary. They can also verify the spelling and usage of specific words.

10. Ipods

Using Ipods the students can record and listen to their speeches, poems, news, short stories etc. they also enhance the user to generate, deliver, exchange texts, image, audio and video scripts as per the requirement.

There are many Apps which have been developed to enhance grammar, vocabulary and English speaking skills. A few Apps are given below.

11. Busuu

Busuu is a leading community of language learners online. It provides extensive vocabulary practice and comprehensive audio visual learning material with photos and recordings by native speakers.

12. Cambridge Discovery Readers

They are the next generation of reader apps to help you learn English with engaging topics and interactive exercises.

13. English Launchpad

It is an app especially designed for English learners and teachers. The common features of this app include practice exercises, lesson plans and grammar structures.

14. English level checker

It is an android app that helps users check their English level whether it is beginner , elementary, intermediate , upper intermediate , advanced and near native.

15. English podcast for learners

This is an android app that helps learners learn English speaking and listening via podcasts. This application has a feature to change playback speed slower or faster.

16. Fluent English

This another great android app for English language learners. It helps them improve both their speaking and listening skills. It is like an audio book and has audio translations of any word you do not understand. It also provides pronunciation in different voices.

17. Grammaropolis

The Grammaropolis app can be called the school of grammar. It shows the parts of speech in the form of animated characters that have different personalities based on their respective roles in a particular sentence. This app makes learning grammar more fun and exciting.

18. Hello-Hello English

Hello-Hello English was built in part by American council on the teaching of foreign languages. It uses a teaching method called mobile immersion to create a virtual environment that guides learners to functional language skills.

19. Methods adopted to develop spoken skills

19.1 Group discussions

Group discussion is the platform which enables the students to interact more and more among themselves and enhances the communication skills.

19.2 Debates

Debates not only make the to speak boldly and fluently but also help them take one stand and be firm and consistent on that. It helps to organize thoughts and ideas in a specific way while speaking.

19.3 Role-plays

In role-plays , the students get into one of the characters and behave and speak accordingly .

20. Conclusion

By using conventional methods , maximum portion of class time is wasted in drilling, grammar and pronunciation but this amount of time can be saved by following the above methods.

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